



# News Release

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Contact: [Mark Fawver](#)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Caltrans - (530) 225-3260

California Department of Transportation  
District 2, Redding  
Brian Crane, District Director

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Highway Info - 1-800-427-7623  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Interstate 5 Traffic Delays Anticipated on Labor Day**

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation asks that motorists adjust their return travel plans for Labor Day, Monday, September 2 to help alleviate possible delays at a reduced lane construction site in northern California. Travelers are being asked to plan their return trip accordingly, such as delaying their return until Tuesday or planning to leave early Monday morning, to avoid any possible delays.

The District 2 Traffic Management Team is preparing a plan to help avoid possible traffic delays on a portion of Interstate 5, currently under construction in southern Siskiyou County, as motorists return from their travels over the upcoming Labor Day weekend. A \$23 million roadway rehabilitation project underway near Dunsmuir has reduced the three southbound lanes to a single lane for approximately four miles. Northbound traffic has been detoured into two of the southbound lanes as the old roadway is being rebuilt. Recent traffic volumes that have increased due to other road closures from the fires in southern Oregon and northwest California have already had an impact by creating minor delays at times.

With the freeway being reduced to a single lane in the southbound direction, only a limited amount of traffic can pass through at the posted 55-MPH speed limit without causing a backup and delays. Caltrans is anticipating an above average amount of traffic returning south through the restricted construction zone during the afternoon and early evening hours on Monday, September 2, Labor Day. Traffic will be monitored during the day so that real time conditions can be posted on local Highway Advisory Radios (HARS) and changeable message signs (CMS) positioned in advance of and within the construction zone. Motorists may tune their car radios to 1610 AM to listen to current traffic conditions and in the event of any delays, the estimated length of delay.

Motorists are also asked to be prepared to slow down as they approach the construction zone, just south of Mt. Shasta, observing the posted 55-MPH speed limit. The California Highway Patrol will also be monitoring the area.

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